



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 263

January Session, 2007

* SB00263APP 041907 *

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM FOR
HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS PURSUING
CAREERS IN NURSING.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) On or before July 1, 2008,
2 the Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the Board of
3 Governors of Higher Education, shall establish a program for the
4 forgiveness of loans provided by the state to students of racial or
5 ethnic minority groups who are pursuing a degree leading to licensure
6 as a registered nurse. The loans shall be forgiven if the student
7 practices as a registered nurse in Connecticut for five years.
8 Participants in the loan forgiveness program shall have loans that
9 qualify for forgiveness under the program forgiven based upon the
10 following schedule: (1) Ten per cent forgiveness of the total amount
11 borrowed and qualified for under the program upon the completion of
12 one year's service pursuant to the program; (2) twenty-five per cent
13 forgiveness of the total amount borrowed and qualified for under the
14 program upon the completion of two years' service pursuant to the
15 program; (3) forty-five per cent forgiveness of the total amount
16 borrowed and qualified for under the program upon the completion of
17 three years' service pursuant to the program; (4) seventy per cent
18 forgiveness of the total amount borrowed and qualified for under the
19 program upon the completion of four years' service pursuant to the

20 program; and (5) one hundred per cent forgiveness of the total amount
 21 borrowed and qualified for under the program upon the completion of
 22 five years' service pursuant to the program. Annually, the Department
 23 of Public Health shall permit not more than fifteen students to
 24 participate in the program. Not later than July 1, 2008, the
 25 Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the Board of
 26 Governors of Higher Education, shall adopt regulations, in accordance
 27 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish
 28 procedures to administer the program.

29 (b) The Department of Public Health, in consultation with the
 30 Department of Higher Education, shall advertise the loan forgiveness
 31 program established under this section in such manner as the
 32 Department of Public Health determines will most effectively attract a
 33 greater number of racial and ethnic minorities to pursue a degree
 34 leading to licensure as a registered nurse.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2007	New section

PH	<i>Joint Favorable Subst. C/R</i>	APP
APP	<i>Joint Favorable Subst.</i>	